

**Welcome to Niskayuna Reformed Church**  
**July 7, 2024**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen**

**The Approach to God**

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Welcome and announcements

Prelude      Nearer My God To Thee

Mason/Valadez

Votum

“Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen

Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 86:3-12 (Responsive)

You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord,  
for I call to you all day long.

Bring joy to your servant, Lord,  
for I put my trust in you.

**You, Lord, are forgiving and good,  
abounding in love to all who call to you.**

Hear my prayer, LORD;  
listen to my cry for mercy.

When I am in distress, I call to you,  
because you answer me.

**Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;  
no deeds can compare with yours.**

All the nations you have made  
will come and worship before you, Lord;  
they will bring glory to your name.

**For you are great and do marvelous deeds;  
you alone are God.**

Teach me your way, LORD,  
that I may rely on your faithfulness;  
give me an undivided heart,  
that I may fear your name.

**I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;  
I will glorify your name forever.**

\*Hymn of Worship      “Faith Begins by Letting Go”

**Lift Up Your Hearts, 852**

\*The Salutation and People’s Amen: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Call to Confession:

Let us come before our loving God with open hearts and lives,  
confessing our sins, sorrows, and struggles,  
not out of routine but out of relationship,  
not to have our worst confirmed but our best liberated,  
and not seeking a magic formula,  
but God’s transforming power of forgiveness and love.

**Prayer of Confession: (Responsive):**

Lord, you come to us, but we do not recognize you;  
you call, but we do not follow;  
you command, but we do not obey,  
you bless us, but we do not thank you.

**Please forgive and help us.**

Lord, you accept us, but we do not accept others;  
you forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us;  
you love us, but we do not love our neighbors.

**Please forgive and help us.**

Lord, you showed us how to carry out your mission,  
but we still insist on our own;  
you identified yourself with outcasts, the needy, and the poor,  
but we do not bother to find out what is happening to them;  
you suffered and died for the sake of all,  
but we do not give up our comfortable lives.

**Please forgive and help us,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Moment of Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance: 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love the LORD."

\*Gloria Patri:

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen***

Special Music      For The Beauty Of The Earth      Kocher

**The Word of God**

Junior Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading:      Ezekiel 2:1-5

This is the Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

\*Gospel Reading      Mark 6:1-13

This is the Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon      "Liberating Jesus"      Pastor Mike

A Prayer for Blessing Upon the Word

\*Hymn of Worship      "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"  
**The Hymnbook, 404**

**The Response of God's People**

The Offering

Offertory      Abide With Me      Monk

\*The Doxology 544 and Prayer of Consecration

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Meaning of the Sacrament

The Invitation

The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**For it is holy and right to do so!**

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty .... adore your glorious name.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Most righteous God .... Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died!**

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ will come again!**

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the bread and the cup

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Worship      “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”  
The Hymnbook, 510

\*The Benediction

The Postlude      America, The Beautiful      Bates/Ward

(\*) Please stand if you are able.

Prayer of Confession: The Worship Sourcebook. CRC Publications, 2004.  
Cover art: <https://www.psephizo.com/biblical-studies/jesus-is-rejected-at-nazareth-in-mark-6/>

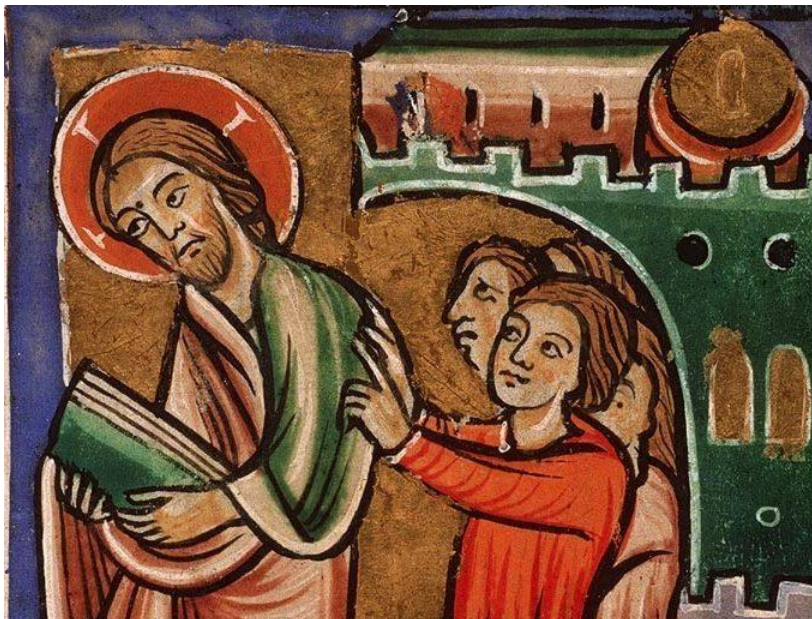
**Service Participants:**

Rev. Dr. Sherri & Rev. Michael Meyer-Veen - Pastors

Joyce Anderson- Liturgist

Ariane Miyaskaki - Guest Musician

Rebecca Benjamin - Organist/Pianist



## Announcements

Our guest musician today is Ariane Miyasaki. Ariane is a local flutist and composer. She holds degrees in music from SUNY Schenectady School of Music, Crane School of Music, and Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Our Mission of the Month Collection for July will benefit **Home of Joy** which is a small orphanage in Chiang Mai Thailand founded by former Colonie resident Kathleen DeMaso in 2002 to provide for orphaned children from birth to age two. Home of Joy is part of Youth With A Mission whose purposes is to “know God and make Him known”.

NRC’s July and August collection will be school supplies for students attending Schenectady City School District. The City Mission will be distributing these supplies to the schools to assist with a successful start to the school year. Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors.

Ellen will be on vacation July 12-19. All items for the July 14 & July 21 bulletin are due on July 8. She will be in the office on July 16 & 18. If you have an emergency while she is gone, please contact Rick Wallace.

NRC will be helping serve lunches to Schenectady children the week of July 15-18 at Central Park from 11:40-1:30.

We will need 3 or 4 helpers each day.

If interested, please text Michele Kopp at (518) 424-3825 for more information.

NRC is continuing our 2024 service at the Salvation Army of Schenectady throughout the summer. Lunch dates have been scheduled for **Thursday, July 18, Tuesday August 27 and Thursday September 26**. This is a commitment from about 9:30am until 1:30pm. We will serve once monthly from now until November, so if you are unable to join us at the above dates, maybe we will catch you at another time! If you are able to help us prepare and serve meals to our neighbors for any of the dates above, please call or text Sue Lichtig at (518)421-1734. Thank you!

Please mark your calendars!! Our Annual Flea Market is scheduled for **Saturday, September 21st**. We need LOTS of volunteers to make this event successful. Volunteer requests will go out in late August but if you

know you can help on either Thursday (September 19th) or Friday (September 20th) evening to help with prep work or you would like to be a kitchen volunteer, parking attendant or runner you can email Ellen at [office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org). This is a great team building event and a great way to meet other church members, especially if you are new to NRC. We hope to make this the MOST successful Flea Market ever!! Join in the fun!

## Scripture

### **Ezekiel 2:1-5**

He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” <sup>2</sup> As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

<sup>3</sup> He said: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup> The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’ <sup>5</sup> And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

### **Mark 6:1-13**

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? <sup>3</sup> Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

<sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

<sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. <sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

<sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.